



State of Utah
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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June 26, 2001

TO: Minerals File
FROM: Lynn Kunzler, Senior Reclamation Specialist *ly K.*
RE: Site Inspection, SF Phosphates, Vernal Phosphate Mine, M/047/007, Uintah County, Utah

Date of Inspection: June 15, 2001
Time of Inspection: 7:30 a.m.
Conditions: clear, warm
Participants: Ron Ryan, SF Phosphates; Doug Jensen and Lynn Kunzler, DOGM

Purpose of Inspection: Inspect Reclaimed Areas for Successful Revegetation and Release.

Upon arrival at the site, Mr. Ryan provided us with an updated copy (6/11/01) of the reclamation map. Eight areas were identified on the map as being reclaimed in 1998 and thus, potentially eligible for release. Vegetation was sampled using a point intercept method. Species observed included orchard grass, thickspike wheatgrass, crested wheatgrass, western wheatgrass, bluebunch wheatgrass, mountain brome, indian ricegrass, pubescent wheatgrass, basin wildrye, russian wildrye, needle and thread grass, sheep fescue, alfalfa, yellow sweetclover, cicer milkvetch, lewis flax, small burnet, globemallow, four wing saltbush and forage kochia.

The first area examined was a 1.2 acre area east of the conveyor. Revegetation was poor on this area with only 13 percent cover. This area *does not* meet the success criteria and cannot be released at this time. It was suggested that the area be reseeded this fall.

The second area examined was a 3.2 acre tract adjacent to the first area. Vegetation ground cover on this area was at 54%, double the 24.5 success standard. Nine species from the seed mix were established, including grasses, forbs, and shrubs. Reclamation of this area *is considered successful* and this area can be released.

The third area examined was a 5.0 acre tract north of the first two areas. Vegetation ground cover on this area was at 36%. Eleven species from the seed mix were established, including grasses, forbs, and shrubs. Reclamation of this area *is considered successful* and this area can be released.

The forth area examined was a 3.8 acre tract north of the third area. Vegetation ground cover on this area was at 38%. Nine species from the seed mix were established, including grasses, forbs, and shrubs. Reclamation of this area *is considered successful* and this area can be released.

The fifth area examined was a 5.7 acre tract west of the conveyor. Vegetation ground cover on this area was at 34%. Eleven species from the seed mix were established, including grasses, forbs, and shrubs. Reclamation of this area *is considered successful* and this area can be released.

The sixth area examined was a 3.7 acre tract north of the fifth area and also along the conveyor. Vegetation ground cover on this area was at 32%. Eight species from the seed mix were established, including grasses, and forbs. No shrubs were observed on this tract. However, because this is a relatively narrow tract, and shrubs were observed on the adjacent area, it is expected that shrubs will invade over time. Reclamation of this area *is considered successful* and this area can be released.

The seventh area examined was a 44.4 acre tract west of the sixth area. Vegetation ground cover on this area was at 50%. Eleven species from the seed mix were established, including grasses, forbs, and shrubs. Reclamation of this area *is considered successful* and this area can be released.

The eighth area examined was a 1.5 acre tract near the center and along the southern edge of the seventh area. Vegetation ground cover on this area was at 44%. While 11 species from the seed mix were observed, this site was dominated by yellow sweetclover, indicating that it may have been reseeded in 1999 when the road to this area was reclaimed. However, reclamation of this area *is considered successful* and this area can be released.

In summary, eight areas were examined for revegetation success, representing 68.5 acres. 67.3 acres of this met revegetation success criteria and can be released. A 1.2 acre area did not meet success criteria and it was recommended that this area be reseeded this fall.

Several photos were taken to document site conditions.

jb
cc: Ron Ryan, SF Phosphates
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